

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03

SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 /052 W

-----150659Z 073158 /23

P R 150625Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1114

INFO FAA GUAM

FAA HONOLULU

FAA YOKOTA

13TH AIR FORCE CLARK

COMNAV AIR BASE SUBIC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9175

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, RP

SUBJECT: CLEARANCE FOR FAA PLANES INTO PHILIPPINES

1. UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN FLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR FAA CALIBRATION AIRCRAFT BASED AT YOKOTA, JAPAN BY LETTER DIRECTED TO COL. HERNANDO, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, 1ST AIR DIVISION, PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE, NICHOLS AIR BASE. THIS PROCEDURE WAS ESTABLISHED INFORMALLY BETWEEN EMBASSY AND 1ST AIR DIVISION SOME TIME AGO, AND HAS WORKED SATISFACTORILY UNTIL NOW.

2. COL. HERNANDO WROTE THE EMBOFF RESPONSIBLE FOR AIR-CRAFT CLEARANCES ON 30 MAY 1977 REQUESTING THAT HENCEFORTH "ENDORSEMENTS (E.G. FAA CLEARANCE REQUESTS) OF THIS NATURE BE DIRECTED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THEIR APPROPRIATE AND FINAL DISPOSITION." WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH BOTH COL. HERNANDO AND WITH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS. IT IS CLEAR THAT FINAL DISPOSITION OF OUR CLEARANCE REQUESTS
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STILL RESTS SQUARELY WITH THE 1ST AIR DIVISION. THE FOREIGN OFFICE SERVES THE DE FACTO FUNCTION OF A LETTER BOX.

3. EMBOFF EXPLAINED TO HERNANDO IN SOME DETAIL THAT FAA PLANES OFTEN NEED CLEARANCE ON SHORT NOTICE TO RECALIBRATE NAVIGATION AIDS AT CLARK AND SUBIC. AT

FIRST, HERNANDO MAINTAINED THAT THERE ARE SUFFICIENT BACK-UP NAVIGATION AIDS AT AIR BASES TO PRECLUDE NEED FOR URGENT FAA RECALIBRATION FLIGHTS. HOWEVER, AFTER EMBOFF'S REPEATED EXPRESSION OF CONCERN, HERNANDO AGREED THAT IF NEED FOR URGENT FLIGHT AROSE, HE, AND HIS OFFICE, COULD PROCESS CLEARANCE REQUEST RAPIDLY AND ON EXCEPTIONAL BASIS.

4. IT HAS OCCURRED TO US THAT MORE RESTRICTIVE PROCEDURES FOR CLEARANCE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT MIGHT HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. INTERPRETATION OF RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF BASES AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, LTC. A.J. BUTLER, EMBASSY LEGAL ATTACHE AND PERSON MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THIS REGARD, TELLS US THAT THERE ARE NO SUCH IMPLICATIONS.

5. COMMENT: FOR SOME TIME NOW, THE GOP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHING INCREASINGLY FORMAL AND MORE RESTRICTIVE AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE PROCEDURES. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IT UNLIKELY AT PRESENT THAT FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS WILL SUCCESSFULLY COUNTER WHAT IS, IN CASE UNDER CONSIDERATION, PERROGATIVE OF GOP AND NORMAL DIPLOMATIC USAGE. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS TO US IMPORTANT THAT PRINCIPLE OF NECESSITY (AND SUPPORTING PROCEDURES) FOR RAPID CLEARANCE FOR FAA FLIGHTS BE ESTABLISHED AND PROTECTED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS OF FAA, CLARK, SUBIC AND INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FLIGHT CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770655/aaaabvtv.tel
Line Count: 89
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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